

From: Edward G. Robinson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 7:54am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Public Comment:

To Whom It May Concern at the Justice Department:

As a citizen 70 years old arriving in cyberspace about 8 years after retiring, I suggest the settlement with Microsoft be as stringent upon them as much as the law will allow. If the evidence supports the charges as made, the maximum penalty should be issued and enforced.

As a relatively new comer to the use of computers, I became aware of their absolute monopoly very early in simply trying to decide whether or not my first computer should be an Apple or a "IBM PC" type. I did a little research for the available software and found the variety, cost and quantity of programs available to me for purchase to be in a non scientifically estimated ratio of about 8 to one in favor of Microsoft products. In my opinion this could not have happened if Microsoft had not intentionally cut corners in the applicable law concerning buying and selling by making illegal arrangement with certain software manufacturers. They cornered the market on software and once done with that, proceeded to tighten and enlarge the scope of their control by tying up manufacturerers to the extent that as a novice and new purchaser, any machine I bought came fully equiped with factory installed Microsoft programs which if given a choice (probably denied by agreements and conditions of sale between Microsoft and the leading hardware mfgs) I might have , could have , etc. decided on a competitive product . Case in point "Netscape Navigator" browser rather than "Internet Explorer". I bought and paid for Netscape Navigator because I was sore at being forced to except not only Internet Explorer for openers, but other MS programs throughout the then present time and following years-that list of pre loaded MS programs grew to include such programs as 'works, Money, and later AOL connections, etc. all of which became "monster" widely used programs particularly by new users which were increasing at exponential rates every year. Further, these programs could not be deleted and they consumed most of the available hard drive space. As far as I was and am concerned, this literally was a fraud committed on the public by a company committed to commanding the market by any means possible. I say, if you have the facts which according to facts made public-they should fined or "punished" to the applicable limits of the law in the most practical way possible on behalf of the millions of consumers so thoroughly screwed by these people. The money fines should be turned over to the Treasury and EARMARKED (not spent for anything else such as Congressional pork barrel projects-and huge gifts made to, let me suggest the Salvation Army and the United Appeal and the Federal disaster relief fund /FEMA organization.

I hope someone actually reads these comments and seriously takes

them into consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward G. Robinson

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